recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State financial relations especially the devolution of the financial powers from the Central Government to the State Governments and to examine the changes required in article 356 of the Constitution of India. The Members expressed their opinion but no final agreement was reached It was decided that the Chief Ministers and other Members of the Standing Committee would send their views to the Inter-State Council Secretariat in writing on these two issues. Replies have since been received from the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Assam Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and West Bengal, besides the Union Minister of Industry. The matter will be placed before the Standing Committee in its next meeting.

Opposition to Joint Command set up to combat terrorism in North-East

512. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some local outfits have launched agitation to oppose the recently introduced Joint Command to combat terrorism in the North-East Region;

(b) if so, the details and grievances of the agitators in this regard; and

(c) the stand of Government *vis-a-vis* agitators and success of the unified command till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (c) Manav Adhikar Sangram Samittee (MASS), Assam Jatiyatabadi Yuva Chatra Parishad, All India Peoples Resistance Forum and Citizen Forum are the main organisations which have opposed the formation of a Unified Headquarters to coordinate security operation against anti-national insurgent groups in Assam. This is due to their favourable disposition towards the insurgent groups. The operations of the Unified Headquarters has been by and large successful in controlling the situation in Assam.

Indian children deported from Saudi Arabia

513. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that children in the age group of 5—12 years who are reported to have landed at Bombay from Saudi Arabia are unable to find their homes and their future is uncertain; and

(b) the steps Government are taking to help rehabilitation of these children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Pak sponsored Terrorism in India

514. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cross border terrorism sponsored by Pakistan was proved by conviction of five persons including Pakistani Nationals by Ahmedabad Court; and

(b) the steps, the Government of India are taking to curb Pakistan sponsored terrorism being perpetuated in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As regards curbing Pakistan sponsored terrorism the following steps have been taken by the Central Government:-

(i) Border fence/flood lighting has been erected/being erected on the Indo-Pak border.

(ii) OP towers have been erected along International Border with Pakistan.

(iii) Additional Bns. of BSF have been sanctioned in order to reduce the